

## Claims

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for analyzing a collaborative space, comprising:  
    providing a collaborative space; and  
    analyzing the collaborative space by measuring interactivity metrics between users  
of the collaborative space.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising categorizing the collaborative space based  
on the interactivity metrics.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising recommending the collaborative space to a  
potential user based on desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the  
potential user via a user interface.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the collaborative space is selected from the group  
consisting of a Internet newsgroups, Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges,  
electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems,  
discussion forums and LOTUS NOTES databases.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings, an average number of responses to the postings an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings, and a participation analysis.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

8. A computer-implemented method for analyzing collaborative spaces, comprising:

- providing a plurality of collaborative spaces;
- analyzing the plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the plurality of collaborative spaces;
- categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces based on the interactivity metrics;
- receiving desired interactivity metrics from a potential user of the plurality of collaborative spaces; and
- recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces to the potential user based on the desired interactivity metrics.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet newsgroups, Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems, discussion forums and LOTUS NOTES databases.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings, an average number of responses to the postings an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings, and a participation analysis.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

13. A computerized system for analyzing a collaborative space, comprising:

a metric analysis system for analyzing a plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the collaborative spaces;

a categorization system for categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces based on the interactivity metrics; and

a recommendation system for recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces to a potential user based on desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet newsgroups, Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems, discussion forums and LOTUS NOTES databases.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings, an average number of responses to the postings an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings, and a participation analysis.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.

18. A program product stored on a recordable medium for analyzing a collaborative space, which when executed comprises:

program code for analyzing a plurality of collaborative spaces by measuring interactivity metrics between users of the collaborative spaces;

program code for categorizing the plurality of collaborative spaces based on the interactivity metrics; and

program code for recommending at least one of the categorized plurality of collaborative spaces to a potential user based on desired interactivity metrics provided by the potential user.

19. The program product of claim 18, wherein the desired interactivity metrics are provided by the potential user via a user interface.

20. The program product of claim 18, wherein the plurality of collaborative spaces are selected from the group consisting of Internet newsgroups, Internet chat rooms, instant message exchanges, electronic mail exchanges, exchange databases, document management systems, discussion forums and LOTUS NOTES databases.

21. The program product of claim 18, wherein the interactivity metrics include at least one of a probability of response to postings by the users, an average time of response to the postings, an average thread duration corresponding to the postings, an average time between responses to the postings, an average number of responses to the postings an average depth of a thread tree corresponding to the postings, and a participation analysis.

22. The program product of claim 18, wherein the interactivity metrics are measured periodically to determine how interactivity between the users changes over time.